

Village of Canton, New York

SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2023

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Barbara Beekman, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Others Present:

Sally Noble, Clerk
Leigh Rodriguez, Ec. Dev.

Scott Goldie, Attorney

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Mayor Dalton opened the Special Meeting at 5:00 PM

- a. Appoint Village Attorney** – Mayor Dalton thanked Attorney Ducharme for his many years of service. He will continue to assist us as we move forward. After a series of interviews Mayor Dalton and Trustee Sorensen recommend Attorney Scott Goldie with the law firm of Ducharme Goldie and Adams, PC. Trustee Beekman made a motion to hire Scott Goldie as Village Attorney. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

A retainer agreement was circulated. The Mayor asked if there were any questions. Trustee Proemm made a motion to enter into a retainer agreement with Scott Goldie of Ducharme Goldie and Adams, P.C. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- b. Discuss the Purchase of Properties** – The Mayor circulated a statement. He read the following:

For many years the Village has been working to redevelop the Midtown Plaza that is in a state of serious disrepair. In recent years, and with the vision of SUNY Canton's President, the Village has applied for DRI funding that includes this property.

The plan has been to turn this dilapidated plaza, at the center of our downtown, into a mixed-use development offering diverse housing options and an Entrepreneurship Center that will anchor the project. This will ignite innovation, spur the creation of new businesses, and ensure enduring economic and community growth.

Each application through the years required that we obtain "site control" from the owners, and for a two-year period a purchase option existed. Those options expired during the time of COVID and were not able to be renewed

Several months ago, new grant opportunities arose that target properties like the midtown plaza for redevelopment. The Village has taken a hard look at this area of our Village and decided to undertake negotiations with the owners of the properties to gain control of six properties for the specific purpose of aiding development that will be beneficial to the area. We as a municipality have determined that this development will create jobs, provide needed infrastructure, and will stimulate our local economy.

The plan for the area has been well established and the anchor for the project, the SUNY Canton Entrepreneurship Center, has received approximately \$4 million dollars to date.

The Village is wrapping up negotiations with the current owners to acquire the property for redevelopment and to allow for us to pursue grants.

We are still in negotiations. Scott has been in contact with Gary Cohen's Attorney. The Mayor added he does have a signed document from one property owner. He does have affidavits from both property owners that will allow us to apply for grants.

Attorney Goldie said he reached out to Attorney Germain but his internet was down. He is expecting to hear and will share that information once received.

c. Set a public hearing for Restore NY Grant applications – We are applying for 2 grants. We sent letters of interest for both the \$2 million and \$10 million. We were given the notice to proceed. Leigh said the application is due on the 27th of January. The Mayor said we are going to try to get the developers involved, at least be on-line to provide some information. Leigh added we will need to wire \$500 for each application. She will get together with Sally to get that. The public hearing was scheduled for January 25, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

There was nothing for executive session.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk